Deployment & Reunion Support

DoDDS-Europe

Best Practice and Resources

Deployment Support Framework

- **Counseling Services**
  - Class guidance lessons address: DoDDS Counseling Standards including skills needed for dealing with the challenges of deployment, reunions, changing families, transitions and moving
  - Mini-classes or small groups: focus on target issues, feelings of fear, anxiety, anger, depression, the roles within the family, friendship and relational skills
  - Individual Counseling: an opportunity for students to privately discuss feelings / problem solve ways to handle personal challenges

PPS Blackboard Resources

Deployment Support

Parent Support Groups

- Different communities have different needs:
  - Deployment Focus
  - Managing changes that accompany deployment and reintegration
  - Parenting skills, tips and peer support
  - Suggestions for dealing with a child's emotions

    AND /OR
  - No need to have a "problem"
  - Opportunity to organize activities for kids
  - Pulls spouses together
  - Gets people talking in a less formalized setting

Deployment Support

Graduation 2007 Webcast
Bringing Graduation to Parents Down-Range

- Graduating Seniors representing
- 19 DoDDS-E High Schools
- Worldwide Broadcast:
  - Afghanistan
  - Iraq
  - Africa
- Serving Approximately 100 deployed parents
- DoDDS-E, USAREUR, NAVEU, USAFE

Additional Resources

http://www.apahelpcenter.org/featuredtopics/feature.php?id=59

U.S. Army HOOAH 4 HEALTH Deployment Guide - The Emotional Cycle of Deployment: A Military Family Perspective

Battlemind

PPS Blackboard: Spectrum Newsletter 2nd Quarter 2006-2007 SY

"Spotlight on Deployment"

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Deployment Support: Best Practice Examples

- These examples are offered as possibilities
- Other wonderful programs are not featured due to the limitations of project size
- Four Examples of Best Practice:
  - During School
  - After School
  - Whole School
  - Whole community

Deployment Support
Best Practice Example: During School

“Deployment Buddies”

- Meet Monthly during regular school hours
- ES students feel special, realize they are not alone, talk about feelings, participate in fun activities.
- HS students take on leadership roles, contribute in a positive way to the community and have an opportunity to discuss feelings and learn coping strategies as well.

Deployment Buddies

- During the “Buddy’s Day” students
  - Participate in a physical game or activity like dancing
  - Complete an arts and craft project / letter / picture for parent
  - Share a snack

- Location: Ramstein Elementary School and Ramstein High School
  Contacts: Majel Braden, counselor RES, Fred Lopez, counselor, RHS and Holly Hasenbuhler, school psychologist.
  Active participants: School Liaison Officer, Army Community Services, Ramstein Enlisted Spouses Association, Airman and Family Readiness Center

Deployment Support

Best Practice Example: After School

"Deployment Club"

- Meet for weekly activities
- Monthly lunches and
- Twice a year "Deployment Simulation Day"

- "*The affect this has on everyone at this base is astounding. We get mothers and active duty folks coming out of the woodwork to help in the club house and on the simulated days. Deployments affect everyone and we can help in normalizing the situation*," Kristine Kessler, Counselor.

“Deployment Club”

- During the “simulation” kids rotate through
  - marching orders, bomb robots (EOD), and sand bags to haul
  - military working dogs, dental mash unit, MRE sampling
  - fire trucks, ambulances,hum-vees, an F-16
  - face paint, chem gear,, and they even get a free lunch!

- Location: Aviano Elementary School
  Contacts: Kristine Kessler, Counselor AES, SMSgt John Roth, LRS
  Active participants: AOCSC, ACES, 1st SGTS, Thrift Shop, Chiefs, ATTA, AFSA, and 5/6 organizations.

Deployment Support

Best Practice Example: Whole School

Pre –Deployment and Welcome Home
Giessen Elementary School

Deployment Support

Best Practice Example: Whole School

SOLDIER OF MY LIFE DAY: GIESSEN ES
"YOU ARE OUR HEROES"

- Location: Giessen Elementary School / Giessen High School
  Contacts: Barbara Mueller, Principal GES, Jason Greve, Counselor
  Doug Carlson, Principal, Giessen Middle/High School
  Susan Morin, Principal, Butzbach ES
  Active participants: Everyone in the Giessen School "Families"

Deployment Support

Best Practice Example: Whole School

Students at Giessen American Middle High School also engaged in projects that helped relieve tension while contributing to the community in a positive way:

- YMCA essay contest titled “Why is My Military Mom/dad a Hero”
- An 8th grader, planned a “Camel Spider” skit to humorously depict everyday life in Iraq
- A 12th grader led a High School skit showing a “Father’s First Evening Back Home”
- A group of high school students performed a “Welcome Back Rap”
- The 9th history class expressed video opinions about why American soldiers are in Iraq
- Middle school students interviewed Elementary school students about their “Hero Wall”
- Middle school, high school and elementary students and teachers recorded “welcome back”
- and “thank you”Video interviews for returning soldiers
- Butzbach ES students shared “ten reasons” why they are glad their deployed parents are home

Curriculum standards in writing and speaking were combined technology skills in movie making. The projects involved building administrators, school counselors and psychologists, classroom teachers and technology specialists. Best of all this was a motivating and meaningful experience for students took leadership roles in developing the themes and format for presentations.

Deployment Support

Best Practice Example: Whole Community

Army KID Strong Day
Vicenza Community

Army Kid Strong Day – "*It was an incredible day for all the students, soldiers, family members and teachers involved. The Army here did an incredible job with the different stations they set up for the kids to participate in – the best I've ever seen. The school did an amazing job getting the whole community involved and supporting the event. I still get goose bumps when I think about it. I'm happy that I was able to participate in the day and was able to contribute a small part to a very large event*," Dale Moore, Educational Technologist/Photographer

Deployment Support

Best Practice Example: Whole Community

Deployment Support All Ages: High School, Elementary School and Soldiers too!

Deployment Support

Students Offer “Patriotic Thanks to Parents”

Deployment Support

Best Practice Example: Whole Community

Army Kid Strong Day
Vicenza Community

http://med-dso.iweb.eu.ds.dodea.edu/

- Location: Vicenza Community
  Contacts: Martha Parsons, Principal VES and Kathleen Reiss, Principal VHS
  (These two principals are rumored to have jumped from the high tower)
  Active participants: Everyone in the community